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clothing (if they are unable to provide uninfected clothing for themselves), he removes their own clothing, bedding, curtains, and carpets, to the steam-disinfecting station, the clothing being tied up in coarse unbleached calico sheets and conveyed through the streets in baskets. New goods, silk clothing which has not been recently worn, furs, and leather goods are not removed to the steam disinfecter, but must, as a general rule, remain on the premises until they have been fumigated. When the clothing, etc., is returned (in the course of some two hours) from the disinfecting station, it is handed to the owners, who have already vacated the premises, and the Government clothing is returned to the disinfecting station to be steamed before it is again used. The people displaced from their homes during the disinfection and cleansing of the premises (which usually occupies some five or six hours in all), are at liberty to make use of the Board's matched shelters until this is complete, but usually proceed with their ordinary avocations or seek shelter in the street or in a neighbor's house.

The disinfection of the premises consists in the spraying of the walls with a solution of perchloride of mercury (1 in 1,000), followed by fumigation with free chlorine, obtained by the addition of diluted sulphuric acid to chlorinated lime (1 pint of a 1-in-5 solution of the crude acid to each pound of the chlorinated lime). Floors and furniture are then scrubbed with a solution of one of the coal-tar preparations of carbolic acid, and the walls are then lime-washed, chlorinated lime being added to the lime-wash in the proportion of 1 pound to the gallon.

6. *Burial of the dead.*—This is carried out under the superintendence of one of the board's European officers, all bodies being buried at the Kennedy Town plague cemetery, unless a special permit has been granted for burial elsewhere.

7. *General sanitary precautions.*—Chlorinated lime is supplied to all the public latrines for use in the buckets, and the officers of the board are instructed to see that it is freely used.

A reward of 3 cents per head has been offered for every rat brought to an officer of the board, and over 50,000 rats have by this means been collected and destroyed during the first half of the current year.

FRANCIS W. CLARK,
Medical Officer of Health.

HONGKONG, CHINA, *October 22, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith an abstract of bills of health issued at this station for the week ended October 19, 1901. Eight hundred and twenty-two individuals were bathed at the disinfecting station during the week and 1,061 bundles of clothing and bedding were disinfected by steam. There were 9 rejections during the time covered by this report. No cases or deaths from plague or other quarantinable diseases were reported to the sanitary authorities during the week. One case of puerperal fever was reported to the sanitary authorities.

Respectfully,

JOHN W. KERR,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Concerning the disinfection of hair by sulphur.

HONGKONG, CHINA, *October 3, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Bureau letter (RMW. EBS.), dated August 28, 1901, calling attention to complaints regarding steam disinfection of human hair at this port; also calling attention to paragraph 6, article 7, quarantine regulations to be observed at foreign ports, describing the method for disinfection of such cargo in lieu of its not being held in a noninfected place for thirty days prior to shipment in accordance with paragraph 8, article 4, and that the Bureau considers the latter method preferable in dealing with such shipments.

I respectfully state that shippers were informed of the regulations, but in the absence of any facilities for using sulphur, they were told that steam disinfection would be safe, providing it did not injure the hair.

After several trials, at which I was present, the shippers decided that the hair was not bleached or injured in any way, realizing, however, that it should be thoroughly dried prior to shipment. In future, shippers will be informed that, in accordance with the instructions of the Bureau, this cargo may be shipped after storing thirty days in a suitable place or after disinfection with sulphur.

Respectfully,

JOHN W. KERR,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

COLOMBIA.

Reports from Bocas del Toro—Fruit port.

BOCAS DEL TORO, COLOMBIA, *November 6, 1901.*

SIR: I have to make the following report of the conditions and transactions at this port during the week ended November 5, 1901:

Population according to census not obtainable. Number of cases and deaths from yellow fever during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from smallpox during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from typhus fever during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from cholera during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from plague during the week, none; number of deaths from other causes during the week, 3. Prevailing disease, malarial fever. Of the 3 deaths reported, 1 was diagnosed syphilitic infection; 2 causes unknown, and were children not over 1 year of age. General sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, good.

Bills of health were issued to the following vessels: October 30, steamship *John Wilson*; crew, 17; passengers from this port, none; passengers in transit, none; pieces of baggage disinfected, none. November 2, steamship *Foxhall*; crew, 26; passengers from this port, 14; passengers in transit, none; pieces of baggage disinfected, 23. November 3, steamship *Banes*; crew, 16; passengers from this port, none; passengers in transit, none; pieces of baggage disinfected, none.

Respectfully,

PAUL OSTERHOUT,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Condition of smallpox in Panama.

PANAMA, COLOMBIA, *November 5, 1901.*

SIR: In regard to smallpox in the city of Panama, I have to say that the governor has issued a decree that a yellow flag should be placed on each house where the disease exists and that all persons shall be vaccinated.

There are now yellow flags on something like 100 houses in the various parts of the city.

Respectfully,

H. A. GUDGER,
United States Consul-General.

HON. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.